

NEWS RELEASE

**OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS**

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For Immediate Release

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MAN SENTENCED FOR ILLEGAL REENTRY INTO THE UNITED STATES

Randy G. Massey, Acting United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois, announced today that on June 5, 2006, Maximino Perez-Angeles, age 21, of Hidalgo, Mexico, was sentenced in United States District Court in Benton, Illinois. Perez-Angeles, who had previously pled guilty to Illegal Reentry into the United States After Deportation and Illegal Possession of a Firearm by an Illegal Alien, was sentenced to 15 months' imprisonment, 2 years' supervised release and was fined \$150. As a result of his conviction, he is also subject to deportation.

The evidence supporting the defendant's conviction established that on November 25, 2005, an Illinois State trooper pulled over the Defendant for speeding on I-57 near Marion, in Williamson County, Illinois. The Defendant produced a Mexican Consular ID card for identification and spoke only limited English. As a result, a Spanish-speaking officer was called to the scene. The Defendant admitted to this officer to being in the country illegally and consented to a search of his vehicle. Officers found a loaded handgun in the car. The Defendant told officers that he had purchased the gun for protection from a person in Columbia, South Carolina, on Wednesday, November 23, 2005.

On December 2, 2005, the Defendant was transported to the Immigration & Customs Enforcement (ICE) Office in St. Louis, MO. He was fingerprinted and those prints were compared with the prints on file for a person who used the same name as the Defendant who had previously been ordered removed from the United States on October 20, 2005, after entering the United States illegally. That order prohibited the Defendant from entering the United States for 5 years. The fingerprints matched. On December 8, 2005, ICE officials verified that the same Defendant had been ordered removed from the United States on at least 10 other occasions and that he has never applied to the Attorney General for permission to re-enter the United States.

Assistant United States Attorney Michael C. Carr handled the prosecution.